

Compelled To Bare His Cross

Matthew 27:29-32; Mark 15:20-21; Luke 23:24-26

- I. The Suddenness Of The Cross
 - A. It was an Unexpected Cross
 - B. It was an Unrequested Cross
 - C. It was an Uncontested Cross
- II. The Selection Of The Cross
 - A. It was a Sovereign Selection
 - B. It was a Strengthening Selection
- III. The Separation Of The Cross
 - A. There was a Separation From Loved Ones
 - B. There was a Separation From a Looking World
- IV. The Sharing Of The Cross
 - A. There was a Closeness To Christ
 - B. There was a Companionship With Christ
 - C. There was the Carrying of Christ
- V. The Summit Of The Cross
 - A. The Cross will take you to a Place of Sacrifice
 - B. The Cross will take you to a Place of Surrender
 - C. The Cross will take you to a Place of Salvation

Compelled To Bore His Cross (Matt 27:29-32, MR 15:20-21 Lk 23:24-26) There is a man that is local to the Chattanooga area that has a ministry of going around all over the country carrying a large wooden cross on his back. And every where he goes he witnesses for the Lord Jesus! Hey I got no problem with it more power to you. But I don't believe that is what Matt 16:24 means exactly ~~not~~ taking up a large wooden cross to carry it around but taking up the way of Christ. The way he went a way of difficulty and distress and daily following after Christ. There is an example of a man doing that in our text and I want to draw out cross bearing truths to apply to us.

I. The Suddenness of the Cross - Simon was from Cyrene a place located on the western coast of Africa. He had served for years and traveled long for the chance ^{to Jerusalem and now} pass over in **A. Unexpected** - He didn't expect to participate in the execution of a criminal, he was coming to worship God, not to carry a heavy tool of execution. But yet when cross ^{schedule} came, burdens of life came that ^{they don't come on} **B. Unrequested** - He didn't ask for this. He wasn't raising his hand saying pick me Ph pick me! He had other plans, there were other sights he would have much rather seen! Not

the brutal slaying of a criminal. No body asks for
C. Uncontested - The Romans in power at the
time could call on any one at any time to do any
thing in a moments notice, that person was bound to
comply. Luke's account - They seized him, and he
had to comply. The sudden reality of crosses is that

II. The Selection of the Cross - The
way the selection of Simon took place was that
the Roman soldier would tap the shoulder of a by-stander

A. A Sovereign Selection - This choosing
was not by accident or coincidence. The
tapping of this spear on this man's shoulder
was a Sovereign Selection. As we will see
later this, tap on the shoulder may have had
world wide gospel implications. What ever
cross you are bearing was specifically designed
for you. God has a purpose & plan, the implications

B. A Strengthening Selection - The texts
seem to indicate that Jesus, weakened by fast-
ing, sleeplessness, brutality, lashing was
unable to carry the load. These guards prob-
ably chose the first able bodied man they could
find to help bear the load. 1 Cor 10: 13. God is not
trying to squash you under a load of trial + burden.
God is making a way to bear it. 2 Cor 12: 9. My Grace
is sufficient.

III. The Separation of the Cross - We do
not know if his 3 sons were with Him Alex-
ander + Rufus, But it was customary to bring ^{family} ~~what~~
A. Separation from Loved Ones - The boys

1) ...reality of crosses is that they can not be contested. You can't jump up and down saying no to make that cross go away. Spurgeon said Jesus "...bears a cross, not that you may escape it, but that you may endure it. Christ exempts you from sin, but not from sorrow."

2) ..of a by-stander with the flat of a spear. How or why was he selected? Was he the stoutest looking by stander? Did he simply look like a foreigner and was chosen for that purpose. I believe it was a...

3) ...which we can't even fathom. God's choice of you to carry this cross may have family-wide implications, church wide implication, it may affect the lives of thousands!

4) **1 Corinthians 10:13** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* **2 Corinthians 12:9** *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

1) ... reality of crosses is that they can not be contested. You can't jump up and down saying no to make that cross go away. Spurgeon said Jesus "...beats a cross, not that you may escape it, but that you may endure it. Christ exempts you from sin, but not from sorrow."

2) ... of a by-stander with the fist of a spear. How or why was he selected? Was he the stoutest looking by-stander? Did he simply look like a foreigner and was chosen for that purpose. I believe it was a...

3) ... which we can't even fathom. God's choice of you to carry this cross may have family-wide implications, church wide implication, it may affect the lives of thousands!

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- 1) **Philippians 3:10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- 2) Every believer is compelled to take up the cross of Christ whether it be trial of affliction, or simply the reproach of the gospel before a contradicting world. **Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

weren't asked to carry the cross. The wife wasn't asked to carry the cross. Just Simon. Therefore there was a separation between what he was doing and his family.

His loved ones. Ultimately as much as we try to bare one another's burdens and share ^{our} load of cares in the end it is we ourselves that have the ^{trials} weight.

B. Separation from a Looking World - Not only separation from loved ones but a looking world. They weren't there holding up the burden. They were simply watching this spectacle. There is an onlooking world around you that is watching you carry that load, carry that burden. Do they see the inner strength of God in your life. Or do they see the ^{to carry such a heavy} little snarl of an ^{burden} ^{to carry such a heavy} ^{burden}.

IV. The Sharing of the Cross. John's account in 19:17 says that Jesus bore his cross. So that means that both Jesus + Simon carried the cross. It wasn't just Simon but the ^{shared} load was.

A. Closeness to Christ - Notice that when Simon picked up that cross with the Lord Jesus He was closer to Him than anyone else! Although the crowd jeer, mocked and ^{or Jesus' voice} screamed and wailed it wasn't difficult for Simon to hear the ^{or Jesus' voice} whisper.

B. Companionship with Christ - Simon was compelled to join in with the labor and suffering of Christ himself. To know in some small part the sufferings of Christ. This was the heart cry of Paul Phil 3:10 Every believer is ^{compelled} ^{to} ^{share} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{sufferings} ^{of} ^{Christ}.

C. The Carrying of Christ - I do not know who carried the greater load of Cross, Simon or Jesus. But I do know who carries the greater load of crosses in my life! Math 11: 28-30 ^{at Bays}
He carries the load. He is the stronger in the yoke.

V. The Summit of the Cross - In each text we find that the next step is Calvary the next step is Golgotha the place of the skull. I wonder what Simon saw in Christ along the ^{surrender}

A. A place of Sacrifice - Simon saw a man that didn't act like the other criminals that day a man that willingly gave his life a servant. They carrying the cross will bring you to a place of Sacrifice. A place where Rom 12:1 get really real. Living Sacrifice! ^{us to sac teach} Our crosses

B. A place of Surrender - Simon saw a man as though he were a sheep before his shearers as dumb opening not his mouth in rebuke, but saying "father forgive them" a man surrendered. Carrying a cross with Christ will lead us to surrender ourselves into the hands of God!

C. A place of Salvation - Warren Wierbe said it best, Simon Had come to Jeru. to catch to the passer and he ended up meeting the passer lamb. We have good reason to believe that not long after Simon was saved (made an penitent) his sons were mentioned in Mark as though roman Church

VI. Closing - Sancy Shall Simon barely cross alone and other saints go free. Each saint of thine shall find his own and there is one for me.

- 1) Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- 2) ...as though the Roman church knew who Simon's son's were. There is a Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13 who many scholars believe to be one of the sons of Simon. In Act 13:1 there were a group of men from the church as Antioch named who were responsible for sending Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary to the Gentiles. The name of one is Simeon that was called Niger. Simeon is another form of Simon. Niger was the regular name for a man of dark completion who came from Africa. When you carry the cross with Jesus you will appreciate your salvation all the more and my lead others to the carrying of the cross of Christ.